

Thank you all. God bless. God bless you all. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:32 p.m. at Grand Rapids Community College. In his remarks, he referred to Juan R. Olivarez, president, Grand Rapids Community College; Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land and State Attorney General Mike Cox of Michigan; Ken Sikkema, majority leader, and Rick Johnson, speaker, Michigan State House of

Representatives; Betsy DeVos, chairman, Charles “Chuck” Yob, national committee-man, and Holly Hughes, national committee-woman-elect, Michigan Republican Party; Peter F. Secchia, former U.S. Ambassador to Italy; Col. Muammar Abu Minyar al-Qadhafi, leader of Libya; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission).

Remarks at the International Children’s Games and Cultural Festival in Cleveland, Ohio

July 30, 2004

Thank you. Thanks for coming. Welcome to the United States. I am honored to have been introduced by a great Iranian-American, silver medalist Matt Ghaffari. Thank you, Matt, for being here, and thank you for your introduction.

Listen, I don’t know if you know this—hold on—there are—the Governor of this great State is with us today. Senators are with us today, very fine people in Senators Voinovich and DeWine. Members of the Congress are here today. The reason why is they want to join me in welcoming you who do not live in the United States to our great country. We’re glad you’re here, and we hope you have a wonderful experience in America.

You’re in a great United States city. Cleveland, Ohio, is a fantastic place to visit. And I want to thank—and I know you join me in thanking the mayor of Cleveland, Mayor Jane Campbell, for her gracious hospitality.

I want to thank the sports authority figures who are here. I appreciate David Gilbert of the Cleveland Sports Commission. I want to thank Alex Machaskee, who is the cochair of the International Children’s Games, and Dr. Fred Loop, who

is the other chairman, for working so hard to put this event on.

I know you join me in thanking all the volunteers from the city of Cleveland who have worked hard to make sure your stay here is a good stay. I suggest you go to the Rock ‘n Roll Hall of Fame. Oh, yes, that’s where you need to spend some time.

I want to thank the former Olympians who are here. They wish you all the very best in the games and hope that you become Olympians yourselves. And this is a good place to start, right here in the competition.

A couple things I want to tell you. One, I hope you enjoy yourself, and I hope you spend time not only competing hard but getting to know each other. Like, there’s all kinds of cultures here and different languages are spoken, but I think you’ll find you share a lot of things in common. Yes, you hope for a better life. You care deeply about people you love. You want the world to be a better place. And so, not only compete hard, but spend time with each other and share cultures. I think you’ll find you’re all God’s children. There’s so much in common.

A couple other things I want to tell you is make sure that you continue to make

the right choices in life. See, you're at the age where you're going to be challenged with some tough choices: drugs and alcohol, prejudice and hate. Reject that. Reject those kinds of temptations and continue serving your bodies and your soul well by making right choices in life. You made right choices to get here to compete. Continue doing so. I think it will help you—I know it will help you in your life.

I want to say one other word. I want to welcome the Afghan girls' soccer team who is here. We're glad every country is represented. I think it's especially interesting and an especially poignant and uplifting moment that young girls are here from the country of Afghanistan. Because your country is free, you're here. Because your

country is free, you can now go to school for the first time—many of you can now go to school for the first time.

Freedom is such a powerful part of the world in which we live, and we take great pride in welcoming you all into a free society from a free society.

May God bless you, and may God bless all the athletes and their families and coaches who are here. Enjoy yourselves. Good luck. All my best.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:35 p.m. at Cleveland Browns Stadium. In his remarks, he referred to Matt Ghaffari, 1996 Olympic silver medalist, Greco-Roman wrestling; Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio; and Floyd D. Loop, cochair, International Children's Games.

The President's Radio Address *July 31, 2004*

Good morning. This week, we received encouraging reports that show our economy is gaining strength. Consumer confidence hit a 2-year high in July. Existing home sales hit an alltime new record in June. The homeownership rate has hit a new alltime high. And since last summer, our economy has grown at a rate as fast as any in nearly 20 years.

These gains in our economy have come at a time when Americans are benefiting from the full effects of tax relief. I have traveled across America meeting small-business owners who are investing tax savings into new equipment, and I have met families who are using tax savings to pay for their children's needs. All of this added economic activity is creating opportunity. Since last August, Americans have started work at more than 1.5 million new jobs, many of them in high-growth, high-paying industries.

The impact of our growing economy is being felt in Washington, where estimates

of Government deficits are shrinking. My administration now forecasts that the combined deficits in 2004 and 2005 will be about \$100 billion less than previously expected, and because of my policy of strengthening the economy while enforcing spending discipline in Washington, we remain on pace to reduce the deficit by half in the next 5 years.

These are hopeful signs, and we must make sure our economy continues to gain momentum. Families are working hard to make ends meet, and these families depend on good policies in Washington that promote growth, new jobs, and new opportunities.

Thanks to the No Child Left Behind Act, we are improving our public schools so students learn basic skills like reading, writing, math, and science. We have expanded Pell grant college scholarships so that more students can attend college, and we are helping community colleges train workers for